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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 /095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
----------106169 242243Z /64
O 242154Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD

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AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
JCS WASHDC 0000
SECDEF WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC 0000

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 24, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 24. FYI ONLY, OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS TOM RESTON.

Q. HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING ON THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID TO THE KNESSET THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT THE UNITED STATES REJECTING AN EGYPTIAN
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RESPONSE TO SOME QUESTIONS POSED BY ISRAEL ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN WILLINGNESS TO RESUME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU. I MADE A QUITE LENGTHY STATEMENT HERE SEVERAL DAYS AGO ABOUT WHERE WE STAND IN THE PEACE PROCESS, AND THAT IS WHERE WE STAND ON THAT. BUT I AM NOT AWARE OF THIS PARTICULAR REPORT THAT YOU SAID.

Q. WELL, FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE WERE QUESTIONS WHICH THE UNITED STATES PASSED FROM ISRAEL TO EGYPT REGARDING SUCH THINGS AS WHETHER PRESIDENT SADAT

WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT FOR ALL OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND WHETHER HE'S WILLING TO NEGOTIATE A SEPARATE SETTLEMENT AND SO ON.

A. YES.

Q. IS THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE THE PROCESS STANDS? THE LAST WE HEARD, AS I RECALL FROM YOUR STATEMENT OF MONDAY, WAS THAT WE WERE WAITING FOR ISRAEL TO ANSWER SOME

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QUESTIONS THAT HAD BEEN PUT TO THEM BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY WHEN DAYAN AND BEGIN WERE HERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

A. THE LAST THAT YOU MENTIONED IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT. WE ARE AWAITING THOSE RESPONSES. THERE IS NO TIME FRAME OR TIME DEADLINE WHEN WE EXPECT THOSE RESPONSES. BUT AS TO PASSING MESSAGES AND WHAT THE EGYPTIANS MAY HAVE SAID, I AM JUST GOING TO REFER YOU TO THAT LENGTHY STATEMENT WHICH I DELIVERED SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

2. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE MAY 19 PRESS BRIEFING AND POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT:

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Q. ARE WE PRESSING AHEAD WITH OUR MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS, AS THE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT SAID, OR ARE WE SEEKING A DELAY, AS WAS REPORTED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY? SPECIFICALLY, HAS THE PRESIDENT ASKED FOR A DELAY FROM THE EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS?

A. --THE SPOKESMAN'S ANSWERS MADE CLEAR THAT, AS THE PRESIDENT SAID ON MONDAY, THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO PRESS AHEAD IN ITS EFFORTS TO HELP THE PARTIES REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

--WE ARE AWAITING ANSWERS FROM ISRAE. TO SECRETARY VANCE'S QUESTIONS, AND OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPT ALSO CONTINUE.

--WE RECOGNIZE TIME IS NEEDED TO SORT OUT THE COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED, BUT WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT SEEKING TO SLOW DOWN OR DELAY THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS.

Q. DID VANCE OR OTHER SENIOR US OFFICIALS DISCUSS WITH PRINCE SAUD THE SITUATIONS IN ANGOLA AND ERITREA AND ALSO IN SOUTH YEMEN AND ANY OTHER COUNTRY NEAR SAUDI ARABIA FROM WHICH THE SAUDIS FEEL THREATENED?

A. THE SUBJECT OF THE SECURITY SITUATION CONFRONTING SAUDI ARABIA IN THE AREA, INCLUDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN

AFRICA AFFECTING THIS SITUATION WAS DISCUSSED WITH PRINCE SAUD, BUT WE HAVE NO DETAILS TO PROVIDE ON THESE CONVERSATIONS.

Q. HAVE WE PUBLICLY ASKED THE SAUDIS TO STOP THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PLO?

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A. --WE HAVE EXPLAINED OUR VIEWS ON THE PLO TO THE SAUDIS AND THEY HAVE TOLD US THEIRS. BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THEIR POSITIONS ON THIS MATTER.

--EACH GOVERNMENT IS, OF COURSE, RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING ITS OWN POLICY.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: SOPN, XF, US
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
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